

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 HA-05 ACDA-12 OMB-01 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12
NEA-10 TRSE-00 /132 W
-----016552 172321Z /63

P R 161326Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1811
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 GABORONE 0762

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV BC UN SF SW
SUBJ: COUNCIL OF NAMIBIA DELEGATION VISITS BOTSWANA

REF: (A) USUN 0776, (B) GABORONE 0652

1. SUMMARY: COUNCIL OF NAMIBIA DELEGATION LED BY ROMANIAN
UN PERMREP ION DACTU VISITED GABORONE MARCH 14. THEY MET
WITH VP MASIRE AND EIGHT-MAN BOTSWANA DELEGATION FROM EXTAF
MINISTRY. DACTU WAS ACCOMPANIED BY COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA REPS
FROM INDIA, NIGERIA, FINLAND AND POLAND. SURPRISINGLY,
DELEGATION WAS NOT RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT KHAMA WHO HAD OTHER
APPOINTMENTS THAT DAY, INCLUDING MORE THAN AN HOUR WITH SOUTH
AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION LEADER, COLIN EGLIN (SEPT).
VISIT WAS MARKED BY SOME TENSIONS WITH GOB OVER COMMUNIQUE.
SAG ATOMIC WEAPONS
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POTENTIAL WAS RAISED AT PRESS CONFERENCE.
END SUMMARY

2. SUBSTANCE. THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE VISIT WAS JOINT COUNCIL/
GOB COMMUNIQUE WHICH REITERATED FAMILIAR POSITIONS BUT INCLUDED
NO MENTION OF CONTACT GROUP'S NEW YORK PROXIMITY TALKS OR,
EVEN MORE SURPRISINGLY, SWAPO. RATHER, COMMUNIQUE EXPRESSES

BROAD SUPPORT FOR THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE IN THEIR "STRUGGLE TO ACHIEVE SELF-DETERMINATION, FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE". COMMUNIQUE INCLUDES GOB REAFFIRMATION OF SUPPORT FOR COUNCIL AS "LEGAL ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY" UNTIL INDEPENDENCE AND CONDEMNS "ILLEGAL PRESENCE" OF SAG AND "ACTS OF VIOLENCE" AGAINST NAMIBIAN PEOPLE. IT PLEDGES GOB AND COUNCIL EFFORTS TO "MOBILIZE SUPPORT" FOR "NATIONHOOD PROGRAM FOR NAMIBIA AND FOR UN INSTITUTE FOR NAMIBIA" IN LUSAKA. COMMUNIQUE DECLARED THAT FORTHCOMING 8TH SPECIAL SESSION ON NAMIBIA SHOULD "ENSURE MOBILIZATION OF SUPPORT FOR THE STRUGGLE OF THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE". NO MENTION IS MADE OF COUNCIL SESSION IN LUSAKA.

3. PRESS CONFERENCE. AT MARCH 14 PRESS CONFERENCE, DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION SERVICES AND RADIO, B.M. SETSHOGO, MADE GOB'S ONLY PUBLIC REFERENCE TO SWAPO DURING COUNCIL VISIT. ACCORDING TO RADIO REPORT, SETSHOGO SAID GOB BELIEVES THAT NAMIBIA MUST ACHIEVE ITS INDEPENDENCE "UNDER AEGIS OF SWAPO". OTHER SUBJECTS ADDRESSED BY DACTU IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING:

A. CONTACT GROUP. WESTERN FIVE INITIATIVE IS "POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT" WHICH EMERGED BECAUSE OF SWAPO'S PROSECUTION OF ARMED STRUGGLE AGAINST SAG. NEVERTHELESS, SAG CONTINUES TO DENY NAMIBIA INDEPENDENCE AND DIVIDES THE PEOPLE BY ATTEMPTING TO CREATE "BANTUSTANS" IN THE TERRITORY. WESTERN POWERS MUST
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"DO MORE" TO BRING ABOUT SAG WITHDRAWAL AND NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE. COUNCIL ITSELF IS UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN NEGOTIATIONS BECAUSE SAG WILL NOT DEAL WITH IT.

B. ELECTIONS. SWAPO IS "NOT OPPOSED" TO ELECTIONS IN NAMIBIA IF CONDITIONS OF "POLICE SURVEILLANCE AND MILITARY OCCUPATION" ARE ELIMINATED.

C. WALVIS BAY. COUNCIL REGARDS WALVIS BAY AS INTEGRAL AND INSEPARABLE PART OF NAMIBIA. SAG ANNEXATION OF WALVIS BAY IS ILLEGAL.

D. SAG ATOMIC POTENTIAL. SOUTH AFRICAN ATOMIC WEAPONS POTENTIAL WAS DECLARED TO BE THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY; WESTERN POWERS ON SECURITY COUNCIL ARE PRIMARY SUPPLIERS OF NUCLEAR MATERIAL FOR SAG. ISSUE COULD COME UP AGAIN IN UN SECURITY COUNCIL.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 GABORONE 0762

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E. ANGOLA. BECAUSE DELEGATION HEADED BY DACTU HAD BEEN TO
ANGOLA IMMEDIATELY BEFORE BOTSWANA VISIT, QUESTION AROSE
WHETHER UNITA IS "OPERATING ALONGSIDE" SAG FORCES IN NAMIBIA.
DACTU DECLINED TO REPLY AND FINALLY TOLD QUESTIONERS "DON'T
PRESS ME ON IT". (NOTE: POLISH REP MADE POINT OF TELLING
ME AT SOCIAL OCCASION MARCH 14 THAT HE COULD SAY "POSITIVELY"
ANGOLA GOVERNMENT WANTED "IMPROVED" RELATIONS WITH U.S.

4. GOB-COUNCIL DIFFERENCES. IN CONVERSATION MARCH 15 WITH
MPOTOKWANE AND LEGWAILA, UK HICOM TURNER AND I WERE GIVEN
BACKGROUND ON COUNCIL OF NAMIBIA VISIT. MOST INTERESTING WERE
TWO DIFFERENCES BETWEEN COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA AND GOB THAT EMERGED
IN DRAFTING COMMUNIQUE. FIRST, COUNCIL PROPOSED A PARAGRAPH
SUPPORTING "PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA UNDER LEADERSHIP OF SWAPO".
GOB REFUSED, WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR ABSENCE OF MENTION OF SWAPO
FROM THE DOCUMENT. SECOND POINT OF DIFFERENCE CONCERNED
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WALVIS BAY WHICH COUNCIL WANTED TO DESCRIBE IN COMMUNIQUE
AS "PART OF NAMIBIA". THIS, TOO, GOB DECLINED TO ACCEPT AND
ANY REFERENCE TO WALVIS BAY WAS OMITTED. LEGWAILA AND
MPOTOKWANE DESCRIBED THE COUNCIL AS "SURPRISED AND DISAPPOINTED"

AT GOB POSITION ON THESE TWO POINTS. GENERAL REACTION OF GOB OFFICIALS WAS THAT THE COUNCIL REPS WERE "NOT AWARE OR WELL INFORMED" ABOUT STATUS OF NEGOTIATION, TERMS OF CONTACT GROUP PROPOSALS OR SWAPO POSITION. LEGWAILA FOUND THIS ALL THE MORE SURPRISING SINCE HE RECALLED HAVING SEEN NIGERIAN REP ADEYEMI AT BRIEFINGS IN NEW YORK DURING PROXIMITY TALKS. IN RESPONSE TO GOB INQUIRY AS TO WHAT THE COUNCIL WANTED TO ACHIEVE AT FORTHCOMING LUSAKA MEETING, COUNCIL REPS REPLIED THEIR OBJECTIVE WAS "TO REAFFIRM UNGA RESOLUTION ON NAMIBIA". THEY FURTHER ASSURED GOB THAT SPECIAL SESSION ON NAMIBIA "WOULD NOT JEOPARDIZE" ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS.

5. COMMENT: GOB CLEARLY DOWNGRADED IMPORTANCE OF COUNCIL DELEGATION. THIS IS MOST OBVIOUS FROM FACT PRESIDENT KHAMA DID NOT RECEIVE THEM EVEN THOUGH HE WAS IN TOWN AND MET WITH COLIN EGLIN AND OTHERS THAT DAY. ABSENCE OF HIGH-LEVEL GOB REPRESENTATION AT DACTU'S NEWS CONFERENCE IS FURTHER EVIDENCE THAT COUNCIL DELEGATION'S VISIT WAS NOT ENTIRELY SMOOTH. GOB REFUSAL TO ACCORD SWAPO ITS CUSTOMARY PROMINENCE MAY WELL BE GOB SHOW OF DISPLEASURE AT NUJOMA'S RECENT STATEMENT DISCOUNTING MAJORITY RULE AS OBJECTIVE IN NAMIBIA. LEGWAILA AND MPOTOKWANE OPENLY DEPLORED NUJOMA'S STATEMENT MARCH 15 AND SAID MEMBERS OF SWAPO EXECUTIVE HAVE PRIVATELY DISAGREED WITH IT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, MEETING DELEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GABORO00762
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780120-0104
Format: TEL
From: GABORONE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780362/aaaabzuo.tel
Line Count: 195
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 USUN NEW YORK 776, 78 GABORONE 652
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3313211
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COUNCIL OF NAMIBIA DELEGATION VISITS BOTSWANA
TAGS: PDEV, BC, SF, SW, UN, COUNCIL OF NAMIBIA, (DACTU, ION)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9a254bc6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014